

II. SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following:

Cross-reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/867,738, filed on May 31, 2001, which has been allowed.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 2, line 1 through line 37 as rewritten below:

~~Description~~ METHOD FOR SEARCHING FOR DATA IN AT LEAST TWO DATABASES, AND DATABASE SYSTEM HAVING AT LEAST TWO DATABASES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a method for searching for data in at least two databases, in particular for searching for telephone directory, address book or appointments diary entries or the like in at least two telephone directory, address book or appointments diary databases or the like, and also to a The database system having at least two databases which is particularly suitable for carrying out the inventive method for searching for data.

2. Brief Description of Related Developments

As electronic devices such as mobile telephones, that is to say car telephones and 'mobiles', cordless telephones, which communicate via a base station connected to the landline network,

electronic notebooks and PCs, which contain databases, such as personal telephone directories, appointments diaries, personal address books, task lists and the like, become more and more widespread, there is the increasing problem that a user needs to manage various electronic telephone directories and/or electronic appointments diaries. If a user uses a cordless telephone with an electronic telephone directory at home in his apartment, for example, then the electronic telephone directory primarily stores private telephone numbers, whereas his work mobile primarily stores work telephone numbers. Further telephone directory entries may be stored in the car telephone, and if he additionally uses a private mobile telephone or mobile as well, this contains further, private and work telephone numbers. In this context, important telephone numbers are frequently stored in a plurality of communication devices used by the user, while other telephone numbers can be found only in a single one of the personal telephone directories in each case. In addition, the user may also have access to electronic telephone directories in his private and/or workplace PC.

Please insert the following heading beginning on page 4, between lines 20 and 21 as written below:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 4, line 21 through page 5, line 10 as rewritten below:

The inventive method is distinguished in that, following entry of a search term, on the basis of the entered search item, the

predecessor or a plurality of predecessors and the successor or a plurality of successors to the search term and, if available, the search term itself from each of the databases are stored in a search table, and the search term if stored in the search table, or that term from the successors or predecessors stored in the search table which comes closest ~~after~~to the entered search term is displayed. In this context, it is particularly advantageous for the displayed predecessor or successor to be used as a search term for updating the search table.

According to the invention, a search table is thus set up in which, for each connected database, at least the immediate predecessor and the immediate successor to the entered search term and, if the search term itself has likewise been found in the database, the search term itself are also stored. If the search term itself has not been found in any of the connected databases, then, among the immediate predecessors or successors stored in the search table, the one selected is that which comes closest ~~after~~to the search term. This selected predecessor or successor is then displayed to a user. On the basis of this, the user can then display the next term or the previous term. He thus has the impression that he is searching for the desired information in a single database. This allows the user to search in various databases just as simply as when searching in a single database.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 5, line 36 through page 6, line 21 as rewritten below:

Since, in the event of the entered search term not having been found in one of the databases, the displayed predecessor or

successor to the search term is used as the new search term for updating the search table, the search becomes not only even faster for the user, but also more convenient, since the search is performed in the precise order of sorting, that is to say in alphabetical order when searching for names in telephone directory or address book databases, for example. According to the invention, the search is performed as though all the available databases were to form a single database sorted on the basis of the selected sorting criterion, that is to say alphabetically, for example.

Once the search term or its closest ~~succeeding~~predecessor or successor has been displayed, the displayed term can either be selected in order to display and/or select for further processing the data associated therewith, or a new search term can be determined for continuing the search. In this context, a new search term is expediently stored in the search table. In this case, the new search term selected is expediently the next predecessor or the next successor to the displayed term from the search table.

Please insert the following heading beginning on page 8, between lines 26 and 27 as written below:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Please insert the following heading beginning on page 9, between lines 5 and 6 as written below:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(s)--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 6 through line 10 as rewritten below:

The primary control apparatus 26, which is accommodated in the car telephone 10 in the exemplary embodiment shown, is connected to a search table memory 27 and to a user interface 28 which can include a display 28a, which in this case is formed by the user interface of the handset 11.

On page 11, between lines 31 and 32, please insert the following paragraph:

In one embodiment it is determined if the previous entry or predecessor to the search term, or the next entry or successor to the search term, is closest to the entered search term. The term from either the predecessor or plurality of predecessors or the successor or plurality of successors that comes closest to the entered search term is displayed.